

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01233 01 OF 02 251438Z
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ECON, UR
SUBJ: ROMANOV PORTRAYS HIMSELF AS PARTY ADMINISTRATOR
AND INNOVATOR

REF: LENINGRAD 1178

1. SUMMARY: ON EVE OF LENIN ANNIVERSARY, LENINGRAD'S REPRESENTATIVE ON POLITBURO DELIVERED LENGTHY SPEECH TO REGIONAL (OBLAST) PARTY COMMITTEE PLENARY SESSION WHICH REFLECTED BOTH HIS FORCEFUL, INNOVATIVE WORK STYLE AND APPARENT EFFORT TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH BREZHNEV. PRAVDA'S REPORTING OF THIS SESSION DIFFERED IN SOME INTRIGUING RESPECTS FROM LENINGRAD PRAVDA, AND CENTRAL PRAVDA HAS CURIOUSLY ALSO FAILED TO MENTION WHAT LENINGRAD PRESS PORTRAYED AS MAJOR MEETING OF MOSCOW CITY ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSED BY MOSCOW'S OWN REPRESENTATIVE ON POLITBURO. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER LARGE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE, "RAISE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTY WORK", APRIL 19 LENINGRAD PRAVDA REPORTED
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PAGE 02 LENDING 01233 01 OF 02 251438Z

PERSONNEL SHIFTS IN OBLAST AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES (REFTEL). UNDER STILL LARGER HEADLINE, "BROAD STUDY", NEWSPAPER PRINTED LIST OF 49 "SAMPLE THEMES FOR LECTURES, SPEECHES AND DISCUSSION" DESIGNED, IT WAS EXPLAINED, TO ASSIST PROPAGANDISTS IN DISCUSSING BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO SIBERIA AND FAR EAST. VISIT IS APPARENTLY TO BE USED TO ILLUSTRATE VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR THEME IN SOVIET INTERNAL

AND EXTERNAL POLICY: WASTE, SPRING PLANTING, ASSISTANCE TO SIBERIA, ROLE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES AND THE "INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE" OF BREZHNEV'S TRIP.

3. PRAVDA'S FAILURE TO REPRINT LIST OF THEMES SUGGESTS THEY WERE LOCAL LENINGRAD PARTY INITIATIVE, SERVING BOTH TO FLATTER NO. 1 AND ILLUSTRATE HOW TO PROVIDE IDEOLOGICAL GUIDANCE. MORE SURPRISING IS PRAVDA'S FAILURE TO CARRY ANY MENTION OF APRIL 19 MOSCOW MEETING, FRONT-PAGED IN LENINGRAD PRAVDA, AT WHICH CITY PARTY CHIEF GRISHIN ADDRESSED JOINT MEETING OF MOSCOW CITY PARTY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CITY SOVIET, PRESIDUM OF TRADE UNION COMMITTEE AND KOMSOMOL BUREAU IN CONNECTION WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS TO MAKE MOSCOW "MODEL COMMUNIST CITY."

4. PRAVDA'S APRIL 20 REPORT ON LENINGRAD OBKOM AND GORKOM MEETING WAS ALSO NOTICEABLY DIFFERENT. QUARTER PAGE SUMMARY (A) DID NOT REPORT PERSONNEL SHIFTS (REFTEL) EVEN THOUGH TWO FULL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ONE AUDITING COMMISSION MEMBER WERE INVOLVED: (B) GAVE ONLY FOUR INCHES TO WHAT WAS ONE AND THREE QUARTER PAGE REPORT OF ROMANOV SPEECH IN LENINGRAD PRAVDA; (C) PUT SOME OF REPORTED ROMANOV COMMENTS IN MOUTH OF LESSER PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING, WHOSE SPEECHES WERE ALSO REPORTED SOMEWHAT MORE FULSOMELY THAN IN LENINGRAD PRAVDA. PRAVDA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LENING 01233 01 OF 02 251438Z

REPORTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE "NOT A FEW GOOD, TRIED FORMS OF WORK IN ARSENAL OF LENINGRAD COMMUNISTS," BUT OVER-ALL TONE DOWNPLAYED ROMANOV AND FOCUSED ON CERTAIN WEAKNESSES IN PARTY WORK RATHER THAN ON THE SUCCESSES ROMANOV CHOSE TO STRESS.

5. FOLLOWING WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF ROMANOV SPEECH AS CARRIED IN LENINGRAD PRAVDA.

--THERE WERE EXTENSIVE BOWS TO BREZHNEV, WHOSE SIBERIATRIP WAS DESCRIBED AS EXEMPLIFYING "BA SINCE ROMANOV'S INCUMBENCY) WERE NOTED: E.G. "CLOSER RELATIONSHIP OF FORWARD PLANNING WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPLEX PLAN OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT" (ALSO ROMANOV INNOVATION); MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN PARTY, PARING DOWN LARGER ORGANIZATIONS AND BUILDING UP "PRIMARY" WORK SHOP AND PARTY UNITS, GIVING THEM MORE AUTHORITY.

--"UNITARY PARTY COMMITTEES" ESTABLISHED WITHIN LENINGRAD'S NUMEROUS CONGLOMERATES (OBEDINYENIYE) HAVE INCREASED INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND "BECOME LABORATORIES OF ADVANCED EXPERIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL WORK."

COUNCILS OF CONGLOMERATE PARTY SECRETARIES HAVE APPARENTLY
ALSO BECOME USEFUL COORDINATING DEVICES.

--LENINGRAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO SAYANO-SHUSHENSKIY HYDRO-
ELECTRIC PROJECT IN SIBERIA, PRAISED BY BREZHNEV, WAS SAID
BY ROMANOV TO ENCOMPASS GEOLOGIC PROSPECTING, TURN KEY
PROJECTS, SPECIAL TOOL PRODUCTION AND CREATION OF LARGE
INDUSTRIAL CENTERS (UZYEL) IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC REGIONS,
IMPLYING THAT LENINGRAD IS ONCE AGAIN SHOWING REST OF

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01233 02 OF 02 251348Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LENINGRAD 01233

U.S.S.R. HOW TO ADMINISTER A COMPLEX PROJECT.

--TO COPE WITH NEW DEMANDS POSED BY CONGLOMERATES BEING
ESTABLISHED IN CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT, SERVICE AND
AGRICULTURE, IN ADDITION TO INDUSTRIAL SECTORS, ROMANOV
DESCRIBED E.G. HOW PARTY HAD DEVISED UNITARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AD HOC TEAMS AT NEW CONSTRUCTIVE BUREAUCRATIC JURISDICTIONAL RIVALRIES, AN
AND HOW
TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS ADOPTING A "SINGLE TECHNOLOGICAL
PROCESS" (E.G. CONTAINERIZATION) AS PART OF
ITS MODERNIZATION PROCESS.

--BECAUSE PARTY HAS BEEN GIVEN "RIGHT" TO CONTROL ADMINIS-
TRATIVE ACTIVITY OF SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS (BY IMPLICA-
TION FAIRLY RECENTLY), IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE
EFFICIENCY E.G. BY CHECKING CADRES, "PLANNING INDIVIDUAL
CREATIVE WORK", USING MORAL AND MATERIAL STIMULI, ETC.
PARTY HAS INCREASED OUTPUT IN "MAJORITY OF SCIENTIFIC

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION BUREAUS" WHILE CHECKING OR REDUCING GROWTH IN PERSONNEL.

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PAGE 02 LENDING 01233 02 OF 02 251348Z

--IN ADDITION TO AGRICULTURAL CONGLOMERATES, EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE NOW INCLUDE PLANS TO ESTABLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE NORTH WEST CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RSFSR NON-BLACK SOIL AREA IN LENINGRAD.

--ROMANOV STRESSED PROGRESS ALSO IN IDEOLOGICAL WORK, NOTING THAT E.G. ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, HIGHER PARTY SCHOOL AND HIGHER PARTY CORRESPONDANCE SCHOOL ARE BEING CONSOLIDATED INTO NEW CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, AND LENINGRAD HIGHER PARTY SCHOOL IS NOW RUNNING PERMANENT SEMINAR TO TRAIN PARTY OFFICIALS.

--PARTY LEADERSHIP IS CREDITED WITH ENSURING HIGH IDEOLOGICAL LEVEL OF CULTURAL PRODUCTIONS IN LENINGRAD IN RECENT PERIOD (OPERAS, PLAYS, ETC., SELECTED FOR PRAISE WERE, INEVITABLY, AMONG THE WORST).

--WHILE ROMANOV CRITICIZED SHORTCOMINGS AND NAMED INDIVIDUALS EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY, HE FOCUSSED ATTENTION ON EXAMPLES WHERE CREATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP TURNED BADLY MANAGED INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURE ENTERPRISES INTO SUCCESS STORIES.

--CITING STATISTICS ON PARTY LIFE, ROMANOV REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 526,000 COMMUNISTS IN LENINGRAD PARTY ORGANIZATION, 100,000 OF THEM WERE WORKING IN THE CONGLOMERATES, AND OTHERS IN 17 CITY AND 22 RAION PARTY COMMITTEES; 18,000 PERSONS ENTER LENINGRAD ORGANIZATION EACH YEAR, OF WHOM TWO THIRDS ARE FROM KOMSOMOL.

5. COMMENT: ROMANOV SPEECH COULD BE READ AS EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE TO BREZHNEV THAT HE TRULY UNDERSTANDS LENIN'S "STYLE OF WORK" AND HOW TO USE THE "FORMS AND METHODS OF PARTY ACTIVITY WHICH RESPOND IN THE BEST WAY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LENDING 01233 02 OF 02 251348Z

CONTEMPORARY DEMANDS." TO PROMOTE HIS CLAIM TO ADVANCEMENT IN THE POLITBURO, HE EVIDENTLY SEEKS TO SHOW THAT HE HAS RARE COMBINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS AND DETERMINATION TO "STRENGTHEN PARTY INFLUENCE IN ALL LINKS" OF ADMINISTRATION BY GALVANIZING PRIMARY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS TO GREATER, MORE INNOVATIVE AND COORDINATED ACTIVITY. IN

SHORT, HE WOULD LIKE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS BETTER
EQUIPPED THAN OTHER POLITBURO OFFICIALS TO MAKE THE
ECONOMY WORK UNDER PARTY LEADERSHIP. WHILE PRAVDA
ACKNOWLEDGES CERTAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LENINGRAD PARTY
APPARATUS, THERE IS AT LEAST A HINT IN ITS REPORTING OF THE
LENINGRAD PLENUMS OF AN EFFORT TO CUT ROMANOV DOWN TO
SIZE, INCLUDING PERHAPS RELUCTANCE TO PUBLICIZE PERSONNEL
MOVES WHICH COULD REPRESENT A STRENGTHENING OF HIS
POSITION IN LENINGRAD. BUCHANAN

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